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WelcomeBC

NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Attorney General
and Minister responsible for Multiculturalism

DIVERSITY PROFILES RELEASED ON MULTICULTURALISM DAY

VICTORIA – A new Internet resource that provides snapshots of the immigration and diversity population in communities across British Columbia is now available on the WelcomeBC website, Attorney General and Minister responsible for Multiculturalism Wally Oppal announced today.

"These profiles are a comprehensive and tangible way to see how diverse the population of our province is," Oppal said. "The profiles have a wealth of information, including the number of immigrants, their period of arrival, age, mother tongue, region of birth, education, employment and occupation. We should be extremely proud, not only on Canadian Multiculturalism Day but throughout the year, of the cultural diversity B.C. is known for."

The diversity profiles highlight Aboriginal people, visible minorities, ethnic ancestry and language diversity. There are 320 immigration and diversity profiles, covering 160 areas in the province. Besides the provincewide version, both types of profiles are available on eight development regions, 30 regional districts and 121 communities.

"Anyone who wants to better understand the demographics of a region or community will find these profiles useful," said Oppal. "We expect users could include health-care professionals, immigrant settlement agencies, school districts, local governments, business and many others, including anyone considering moving to one of these communities. The new web-based design makes it much easier to find communities and access their profiles."

Data is based on the recently released 2006 census results. The census provides the most accurate and detailed information about British Columbia's population. Profiles are updated every five years, with the next update taking place after the 2011 census. Profiles have been expanded using 2006 census data to include more information and graphs, along with colour to make them easier to read.

WelcomeBC, a cross-government initiative, recently celebrated its first anniversary of providing enhanced programs and services for newcomers to British Columbia and Canada.

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Regional news directors and editors: To find out about immigration and diversity trends in your area, go to: www.welcomebc.ca/en/growing_your_community/trends.html

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